

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 1, 2005, in the above-identified application. Enclosed herewith is a Petition requesting a three-month extension of time for resetting the deadline for responding to the Final Office Action from October 1, 2005, to and including January 1, 2006. Also enclosed herewith is a Notice of Appeal to maintain the pendency of the application during consideration of the Amendment After Final by the Examiner.

As an initial matter, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 8-10 contain allowable matter. Specifically, the Examiner objected to claims 8-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants submit herewith a Submission of Formal Drawings which includes FIGS. 1-12. Applicants note that the drawing figure changes received in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 18, 2005, have been accepted by the Examiner. The new formal drawings submitted herewith reflect the accepted changes.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,893,889 to Harrington. The Examiner also rejected claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrington in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,989,291 to Ralph et al. In view of the Examiner's indication that claims 8-10 contain allowable matter, as noted above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 10 therein. In addition, Applicants have canceled

claim 10. In view of the above-noted amendments, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is allowable, and that claims 2-9 are allowable, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: December 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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